Amendments to the Specification (substitute specification filed September 9, 2004):

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

(1) U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 09/358,801, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Postage Label Authentication," filed July 21, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,701,304.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

([[4]]3) U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 09/708,698, entitled "System And Method For Managing Multiple Postage Functions In A Single Account", filed November 7, 2000, abandoned;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

(7) U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 09/611,375, entitled "Providing Stamps On Secure Paper Using A Communications Network," filed July 7, 2000, abandoned;

Please replace the 6 paragraphs beginning on page 2, line 7 with the following amended paragraphs:

(8) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/216,779, entitled "System And Method Of Printing Labels," filed July 7, 2000, expired;

(9) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/216,653, entitled "Method And System For Dispensing Postage Over The Internet, With Enhanced Postal Security Features" filed July 7, 2000, expired;

(10) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/206,207, entitled "Providing Stamps on Secure Paper Using A Communications Network" filed May 22, 2000, expired;

(11) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/204,357, entitled "Stamps Over a Communications Network" filed May 15, 2000, expired;

(12) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/181,299, entitled "System and Method For Stamps Over The Internet," filed February 9, 2000, expired; and

(13) U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/181,368, entitled "System and Method For Stamps Over The Internet," filed February 8, 2000, expired.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

At step 309, the web site 102 initiates a download of a postage printing software component 202 to the user's system. The download of the postage printing software component preferably, but not necessarily, occurs concurrently with sending postage requests to the postage vendor server for efficiency reasons. The postage printing software component provides a specialized printing capability and printer interface for handling the eventual printing of the postage to produce the indicium. This aspect of the invention is more fully described in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/216,779, entitled "System And Method Of Printing Labels," filed July 7, 2000, expired. The postage printing software component can be a print DLL (dynamically linked library) software component that is dynamically installed into the OS, a JAVA® script that is downloaded and executed by the browser software, or other printing software implementations or techniques known to those of ordinary skill.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

For example, the postage indicium data (raw data)sda typically contains the following information:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 33 with the following amended paragraph:

In step 318, the information for printing the indicium (optionally enhanced to contain a background image) is then sent to the user at user system 232. The information received by the user is then used to print the indicium. For example, a printer device 142 coupled to the user system may be used to print the indicium (or indicia) 200. The postage printing software component 202 in the user receives the information and interacts with the user to print the postage, step 320. As mentioned above, the printing aspect of this invention is more fully described in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/216,779, entitled "System And Method Of Printing Labels," filed July 7, 2000, expired, and U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 09/708,185, entitled "System and Method of Printing Labels". The postage printing software component 202 automatically initiates an interactive print sequence upon receiving the information, prompting the user through the steps to print out the received postage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

Appl. No. 09/708,913
Amdt. dated May 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2004

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When the off-line print program is initiated, it establishes a communication link to the Internet to obtain the postage printing software component 202. This component may reside on the first server 102, on the postage vendor server 104, or at some other convenient location on the Internet, or on a local network server. Alternatively, the postage printing software component can be hardcoded into to the off-line print program, or is already installed in the Windows OS as a print DLL. Preferably, the postage printing program is obtained from a location on the Internet and downloaded on a per-use basis. This allows for the postage printing program to be easily maintained and updated to provide new printing features, enhanced user interfaces, and so on. The off-line print program operates as described in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/216,779, entitled "System And Method Of Printing Labels," filed July 7, 2000, expired, and U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application No. 09/708,185, entitled "System and Method of Printing Labels".

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

The different features printed on label 400 may be printed in special ink to further increase security. The paper on which label 400 is printed may itself be made of or contain special features to reduce fraudulent use. Further details related to the use of security features are discussed in U.S. Application No. 09/611,375, entitled "Providing Stamps On Secure Paper Using A Communications Network," filed July 7, 2000, abandoned.